

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5, 8-10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gordon (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,156). Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Gordon in view of Koyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,581,621). Further, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, 12, 15, 19 and 39-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Gordon in view of well known prior art. The Examiner objected to claims 2, 11, and 17 as being dependent upon rejected base claims. However, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 11, and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Further, the Examiner indicated that claims 24-38 were allowable.


Applicants would like to begin by thanking the Examiner for noting the allowable material in the instant claims. While Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejections, Applicants presently amend the claims to incorporate the allowable matter, as suggested by the Examiner. Indeed, by the present Response, claims 2, 11, and 17 are placed into independent form. Specifically, independent claims 1, 10, and 16 are amended to incorporate the allowable matter of dependent claims 2, 11, and 17, respectively. Additionally, Applicants presently amend claim 39 to incorporate additional limitations, which include what is believed to be allowable material based on the Examiner's indications. Because they have been incorporated into independent claims, dependent claims 2, 11, 17, and 41 are presently canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-10, 12-16, 18-40, and 42-44 remain pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of claims 1, 3-10, 12-16, 18-40, and 42-44. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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